

MY/sb 020997US  
23. March 2005

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method for the shaping of web-like or sheet-like semifinished products (7, 8) made of open-pored plastic using a multipart forming tool (1), whose tool parts (2, 3), which may be moved toward and away from one another, define a cavity (4) having at least one mold structure. The present invention is essentially characterized in that at least one section of web-like or sheet-like semifinished product made of open-pored material is shaped in the cavity of the forming tool (1) by inflating a balloon or hose (18) made of elastic material which is assigned to the cavity (4). In this way, both open-pored thermoplastic materials and open-pored duroplastic materials can be shaped effectively and cost-effectively. In particular, the method according to the present invention allows the manufacture of open-pored shaped parts having undercuts (23, 24). The present invention further relates to a device for carrying out the method according to the present invention.

Figure 4 is intended for the abstract.